FAU Presents a Public Lecture by Esteemed Contemporary Art Curator Hamza Walker

BOCA RATON, Fla. (January 9, 2018) – The University Galleries at Florida Atlantic University’s Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters will present a lecture by Hamza Walker, a nationally recognized contemporary art curator and educator, and the director of Los Angeles’ LAXART Galleries, on Thursday, Feb. 15 at 7 p.m. in the PA 101 lecture hall, adjacent to the Schmidt Center Gallery, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton campus. The public program is in conjunction with the exhibition “southXeast: Contemporary Southeastern Art,” that will be on view in all three venues of the University Galleries through Saturday, March 3.

Walker has been the executive director of LAXART, one of the most important venues for emerging and under-recognized contemporary art in Los Angeles, since September 2016. For the previous 20 years, Walker served as associate curator and director of education at the Renaissance Society at the University of Chicago, and had immeasurable impact on the institution, the city and the field of contemporary art.

During his tenure he curated and co-curated many solo exhibitions of internationally recognized artists, including the first comprehensive exhibition of the works on paper and music scores by pioneering jazz musician and visual artist Wadada Leo Smith (2015), two sprawling group exhibitions – “Teen Paranormal Romance” (2014), and “Suicide Narcissus” (2013) – and “Black Is, Black Ain’t” (2008). Walker co-curated the 2016 edition of the Hammer Museum’s “Made in LA,” and has received several awards for his curating including the Peter Norton Curatorial Grant (1999) and the Walter Hopps Award for Curatorial Achievement (2004). Walker also writes essays, art criticism and exhibition reviews and has been published in magazines and journals such as Artforum and Parkett. He was awarded the Ordway Prize for contributions to the field in the form of writing and exhibitions in 2010.
In his lecture at FAU, Walker will discuss several important contemporary artists he has worked with, as well as the importance of art education as it relates to the often quizzical field of contemporary art.

The concurrent exhibition on view in all three of the University Galleries, “southXeast: Contemporary Southeastern Art” is a unique contribution to South Florida’s visual arts offerings as it complements and expands upon the region’s Miami-centered contemporary art scene. “southXeast” presents emerging and under-represented artists and is the only curated exhibition regularly presented in Florida to collectively present contemporary artists of the southeast region. The exhibition has been presented every third year since 2005 and has included 53 regional artists. The current iteration of “southXeast” is co-curated by Rod Faulds, director of the University Galleries, and Cynthia Stucki, FAU’17. The exhibition features 14 artists residing in eight southeastern states: Arkansas, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina and Tennessee, were selected for the exhibition.

The University Galleries at FAU are open to the public Tuesdays through Fridays, from 1 to 4 p.m., and Saturdays from 1 to 5 p.m. Group and class tours are welcome during public hours as well as at other times scheduled by appointment. Gallery exhibitions are sponsored by the Cultural Council of Palm Beach County. For more information, call 561-297-2661, email galleries@fau.edu or visit www.fau.edu/galleries.

University Galleries programs are supported by the Cultural Council of Palm Beach County; The State of Florida Division of Cultural Affairs and Florida Council on the Arts; Isadore and Kelly Friedman University Galleries Fund; and R.A. Ritter Foundation. Museum Education Programs are made possible by the Community Foundation of Palm Beach and Martin Counties; and the Kaye Arts Integration Endowment.

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About Florida Atlantic University:
Florida Atlantic University, established in 1961, officially opened its doors in 1964 as the fifth public university in Florida. Today, the University, with an annual economic impact of $6.3 billion, serves more than 30,000 undergraduate and graduate students at sites throughout its six-county service region in southeast Florida. FAU’s world-class teaching and research faculty serves students through 10 colleges: the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters, the College of Business, the College for Design and Social Inquiry, the College of Education, the College of Engineering and Computer Science, the Graduate College, the Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College, the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine, the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing and the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science. FAU is ranked as a High Research Activity institution by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The University is placing special focus on the rapid development of three signature themes – marine and coastal issues, biotechnology and contemporary societal challenges – which provide opportunities for faculty and students to build upon FAU’s existing strengths in research and scholarship. For more information, visit www.fau.edu.